

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

Abstract of the Disclosure

An apparatus, program product and method utilize a displayed pictorial representation that depicts the actual physical configuration of a plurality of hardware components in a physical computer system to facilitate the collective management of the underlying hardware components. Typically, within such a pictorial representation, a selected status is displayed for multiple of such hardware components, thereby permitting hardware components sharing common attributes or characteristics to be identified in an efficient and intuitive manner, as well as to permit collective management operations to be performed on all selected hardware components. In addition, a pictorial representation may be dynamically generated to represent the physical configuration of a plurality of hardware components within a plurality of computers. In connection with such dynamic generation, the plurality of computers may be accessed to identify the plurality of hardware components that are resident in such computers. Moreover, management operations may be performed on selected hardware components in response to user input directed to those portions of the pictorial representation that represent the physical configurations of such selected hardware components.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 23, as follows:

A1 These and other advantages and features, which characterize the invention, are set forth in the claims annexed hereto and forming a further part hereof. However, for a better understanding of the invention, and of the advantages and objectives attained through its use, reference should be made to the Drawings drawings, and to the accompanying descriptive matter, in which there is described exemplary embodiments of the invention.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 10, as follows:

A2 For example, Fig. 1 of the Drawings drawings, wherein like numbers denote like parts throughout the several views, illustrates a computer system 10 implementing pictorial-based computer hardware component management consistent with the invention. Computer system 10 includes a manager computer 12 coupled to a network generically represented at 14. Consistent with the invention, manager computer 12 may implement pictorial-based hardware component management of hardware components resident in the manager computer itself, or to one or more other remote computers or electronic devices in computer system 10, e.g., a single-user computer 16, a single-unit multi-user computer 18 such as a minicomputer or server, a multi-unit multi-user system incorporating a computer 20 and one or more supplemental hardware units (e.g., storage towers 22), or even a clustered system 24 including a plurality of cluster nodes 26.